Wheat production and imports

1369. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of wheat produced in India during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) what is the quantum of wheat imported from U.S.A. during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(c) whether there is any domestic scarcity or whether Indian farmers are not growing enough wheat as on today so as to compel Government to go for imports of wheat from U.S.A.;

(d) if so, the reasons for such scarcity and less production of wheat in India;

(e) if not, the reasons for opting for imports of wheat from U.S.A.; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that imported wheat from U.S.A. was found to be of inferior quality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The quantum of wheat produced in India was 68.64 million tonnes in 2004-05, 69.35 million tonnes in 2005-06 and 74.89 million tonnes in 2006-07 (4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007).

(b) No wheat was imported from U.S.A. on Government account during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(c) There is no domestic scarcity of wheat in India. The production estimate of 74.89 million tonnes during 2006-07 is the second highest achievement after 76.39 million tonnes in 1999-2000.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Lack of funds for agricultural universities

†1370. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agriculture universities of the country are not functioning properly due to scarcity of funds;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps for improving the said situation; and

(c) the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.